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Message Text

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE LDP DIETMEN'S VIEW ON INDOCHINA, KOREA AND US-J SECURITY

SUMMARY: CONCERNING LATEST INDOCHINA SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON KOREA AND JAPAN'S SECURITY, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN INTERVIEWED 46 MEMBERS OF LOWER HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES BELONGING TO LDP FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH COUNCIL. GROUP HAS STRONG VOICE IN FORMULATION OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY. THOSE POLITICANS INTERVIEWED HELD GENERAL VIEW THAT (A) COLLAPSE THIEU REGIME CAUSED BY COMBINATION OF FACTORS SUCH AS U.S. MILITARY PULLOUT, CORRUPTION SAIGON REGIME AND RISING NATIONALISM; (B) THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY SIMILAR SITUATIN MAY OCCUR IN KOREAN PENINSULA; AND (C) GREAT MAJORITY RESPONDENTS DID NOT SEE ANY NEED TO REVISE PRESENT GOJ POLICY OF MAINTAINING JAPAN'S SECURITY BY MEANS OF BOTH US-J SECURITY SETUP AND OWN SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEM. THEY ALSO DID NOT SEE NEED FOR CHANGES IN WHAT IS CALLED THREE-POINT NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLE, BUT CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "PROHIBITION AGAINST INTRODUCTION NUCLEAR ARMS IN JAPAN" SHOULD BE MADE MORE FLEXIBLE.

1. Q1. WHAT IS THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE COLLAPSE OF SAIGON -- US MILITARY PULLOUT, INSIDE CORRUPTION, OR VIOLATION BY NORTH OF PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT? (ASKED OF 46 POLITICIANS WITH SOME MULTIPLE ANSWERS):
(A) SELF-DISINTEGRATIN OF REGIME BY OWN CAUSES, 26; (B) VICTORY OF NATIONALISM, 13; (C) US MILITARY PULLOUT, 11: (D) VIOLATION OF
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PEACE AGREEMENT BY NORTH, 4: (E) OTHER 2.

2. Q2. DO YOU THINK WHAT HAPPENED IN INDOCHINA IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN AGAIN IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA?

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(A) UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN, 30; (B) LIKELY TO HAPPEN, 8; (C) TENSION WILL INCREASE/EFFECTS WILL APPEAR, 6; (D) BETTER USE CAUTION, 1; (E) NEEDS SOME CONSIDERATION, 1.

3. DO YOU AGREE WITH VIEW THAT ROK IS A "LIFE LINE" FOR THE SECURITY OF JAPAN?:
(A) ROK IS JAPAN'S LIFE LINE, 9; (B) IT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AREA, 5; (C) PEACE IN WHOLE KOREAN PENINSULA RATHER THAN ROK ALONE IS IMPORTANT FOR JAPAN, 4; (D) ROK IS A BULWARK, 1; (E) WHETHER THE PENINSULA HAS A FRIENDLY OR UNFIRENDLY REGIME TOWARD JAPAN MAY GREATLY AFFECT JAPANESE POLICIES AND DIPLOMARY, 1; (F) AGAINST THESE AFFIRMATIVE REPLIES, A TOTAL OF 8 RESPONDENTS OBJECTED TO USE OF THE TERM "LIFE LINE."

4. Q3. IN ORDER TO COPE WITH SUDDEN CHANGES IN INDOCHINESE SITUATION, DO YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY TO MODIFY JAPANESE SECURITY POLITICES WITH REGARD TO THE THREE-POINT NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLE, THE US-JAPAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, AND STRENGTHENING OF SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEM? (A) ANY NEED TO MODIFY 3-POINT NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLE?:
44 POLITICIANS INCLUDING HAWKISH POLITICIANS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "THERE IS NO NEED TO MODIFY THE THREE-POINT NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLE." HOWEVER, A QUARTER OF THEM WANTED A "FLEXIBLE APPLICATION" OF PROHIBITION AGAINST BRINGING IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SOME REASONS GIVEN WERE, "WE CANNOT ASK U.S. TO PROTECT JAPAN IF WE SAY 'NO" DURING PRIOR CONSULTATIONS ABOUT BRINGING IN NUCLEAR ARMS," AND "US-J SECURITYTREATY MAY BECOME USELESS IF 'NUCLEAR ARMS CANNOT BE BROUGHT IN' IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY." REPS NAOMI NISHIMURA AND JUNICHIRO KOISUMI REPLIED "INTERPRETATION OF NOT BRINGING-IN NUCLAR ARMS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO TERRITORIAL LAND ONLY," THUS GIVING LEEWY FOR U.S. NUCLEAR ARMED WARSHIPS AND TRANSIT BY AIRCRAFT IN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND AIR. NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN ANALYZED THAT "IN SPITE OF THE THREE-POINT NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLE, THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF LDP DIETMEN WHO ARE INSISTING ON 'GIVING ROOM FOR BRINGING-IN NUCLEAR ARMS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.'"

5. (B) ANY NEED TO REVISE JAPANESE POLICY OF RELYING ON US-J
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SECURITY PACT?: AN OVERWHELMING 43 REPS REPLIED "NO NEED FOR ITS REVISION." BUT AMONG THEM WERE SEEN CERTAIN DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS BETWEEN HAWKS AND DOVES. SOME HAWKISH OPINIONS: "WE HAVE TO DEPEND ON AMERICA FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY" (TATSUO TANAKA); "JAPANAPPEARS TOO SELFISH IN RELYING ON THE SECURITY TREEATY" (NAKA FUNADA); "IT IS DESIRABLE TO GIVE MORE TEETH TO THE SECURITY TREATY ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT IN VIEW OF CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH" (NAOMI NISHIMURA); " I DON'T LIKE THE WAY FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA, IN CONNECTION WITH PREENTATION OF NPT RATIFICATION BILL TO THE DIET, ASKED AMERICA TO CONFIRM ITS COMMITMENTS TO PROTECT JAPAN WHILE OFFERING NOTHING IN RETURN" (SEISUKE OKUNO). ON OTHER HAND DOVES EMPHASIZED JAPANESE INDEPENDENT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS RATHER THAN STRENGHTHENING

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OF US-J SECURITY TREATY. EXAMPLES: "JAPAN SHOULD MORE ACTIVELY ADVISE AMERICA ON ITS ASIAN POLICIES" (AIICHIRO FUJIYAMA); "SHOULD ASSERT AN ASIAN POLICY WHICH IS MADE IN JAPAN" (SHIGETARO SASAYAMA). SOME HAWKS WERE TAKING A CRITICAL VIEW OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY. "RATHER THAN MEANINGLESSLY ARGUING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, THE FIRST THING FOR JAPAN TO DO IS PUT JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY ON SOLID FOUNDATION" (EIICHI NAKAO). THERE WERE ONLY THREE ANSWERS FAVORING "REVISION OF JAPANESE SECURITY POLICY." REASONS GIVEN WERE: "A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING SINO-JAPANESE AND US-JAPAN SECURITY SYSTEMS" (KOICHI KATO); "STRENGTHENING OF DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY IN NON-MILITARY SECTORS" (SEIICHI TAGAWA).

5. (C) NEED FOR STRENGTHENING OF SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY?: EXCEPT SEVEN POLITICIANS WHO WERE EXPLICIT ABOUT STRENGTHENVRG JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE SETUP, A MAJORITY WANTED TO MAINTAIN PRESENT STRENGTH OR "DID NOT SEE NEED FOR STRENGHTENING." REASONS GIVEN FOR STRONGER SELF-DEFFENSE WERE; "STRENGHTENING MAY BECOME INEVITABLE WITH RETREAT OF US ASIAN PRESENCE" (SHUTARO MATSUURA); "ITS STRENGTH IS CURRENTLY TOO WEAK AND UNPREPARED FOR EMERGENCY" (NAOKICHI KITAWA, UICHI NODA). REASONS GIVEN FOR NEGATIVE REPLIES WERE: "TO INSPIRE MEN WITH WILL TO DEFEND THE NATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EQUIPPING THEM WITH ARMS" (YOZO KATO); "IMPROEMENT OF (DEFENSE) CONSCIOUSNESS RATHER THAN OF ARMS" (ZENTARO KOSAKA); "PRESENT STRENGTH MAY SUFFICE IF QUALITA-TIVELY IMPROVED" (NAKA FUNADA); AND "NO NEED FOR FORCED STRENGTHENING IN THE LIGHT OF ECONOMIC REALITY SHIFTING TOWARD A STABLE GROWTH" (KEIJIRO SHOJI).
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